

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 4, 2003, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-9, 14 (in part), 17 (in part) and 21, drawn to a first method of making a stabilized protein by selecting one or more residue pairs using a statistical criterion, a protein cross-linked by the first method and composition comprising the cross-linked protein, classified in class 424, subclass 193.1;

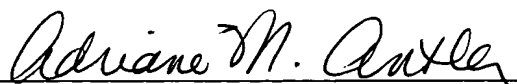
Group II: Claims 10-13, 14 (in part), 17 (in part), 18-20 and 22, drawn to a second method of making a stabilized protein by selecting at least one or more tyrosine residue pairs, and a protein made by the second method comprising at least one di-tyrosine cross-link, classified in class 424, subclass 194.1.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups I and II are distinct, each from the other. In order to be fully responsive to the Examiner's requirement for a restriction of the instant application, Applicants hereby provisionally elect with traverse to prosecute Group II, claims 10-13, 14 (in part), 17 (in part), 18-20 and 22, drawn to a second method of making a stabilized protein by selecting at least one or more tyrosine residue pairs and a protein made by the second method comprising at least one di-tyrosine cross-link.

Applicants respectfully request that the present remarks be entered and made of record in the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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